

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 225 714

RC 013 753

AUTHOR Knudson, Yvonne, Comp.; And Others
TITLE Rural Health Care in Texas: The Facts--1982.
INSTITUTION Texas Univ., Austin. School of Nursing.
SPONS AGENCY Meadows Foundation, Dallas, Tex.; Moody Foundation, Galveston, Tex.; Richardson (Sid W.) Foundation, Fort Worth, Tex.
PUB DATE Dec 82
NOTE 25p.; For related document, see ED 201 457.
PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adolescents; Alcoholism; Children; Drug Abuse; Environmental Influences; Ethnic Groups; *Health Conditions; Health Facilities; *Health Personnel; Health Services; Incidence; Maps; *Mental Health; Older Adults; *Physical Health; Poverty; *Rural Areas; Rural Education; *Rural Population; Transportation
IDENTIFIERS *Texas

ABSTRACT

Although there exists in the minds of urban Texans the myth that rural life is especially healthy, in fact the mental and physical health of rural Texans is markedly worse than that of urban Texans. If health is defined in terms of environmental, physical, mental, and social factors, it is inaccurate to say that rural residents are receiving health care. Rural residents do have some access to medical care, but even this is often limited by poverty, lack of health insurance or coverage under public programs, cultural barriers, racial discrimination, and limited education. Rural residents experience more days of disability and more chronic illness than their urban counterparts. Rural living produces drug abuse, domestic violence, depression and teenage pregnancy. In addition, rural Texans have less education, lower incomes, and shorter life expectancies than urban Texans. There are higher incidences of substandard housing, poor communication and transportation systems, and inadequate sewage and water systems in rural areas. Two hundred of Texas' 254 counties are non-metropolitan. The report presents statistics on poverty, the elderly, children, education, environmental factors, housing, transportation, alcoholism and drug abuse, health status, mental health, crime, federal health programs, health and medical facilities and health manpower. Maps and references conclude the document. (BRR)

* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *

ED225714



RURAL HEALTH CARE IN TEXAS: THE FACTS—1982

There exists in the minds of urban Texans the myth that rural life is especially healthy. In fact, the mental and physical health of rural Texans is markedly worse than that of urban Texans. If health is defined in terms of environmental, physical, mental, and social factors, it is inaccurate to say that rural residents are receiving health care. Rural residents do have some access to medical care, but even this is often limited by poverty, lack of health insurance or coverage under public programs, cultural barriers, racial discrimination, and limited education. Yet, few things are of as much concern to rural Texans as access to health care.

Rural communities are considered to be places where the air is clean, the sky is blue and the value systems are something to be envied. However, statistics show that accident rates are higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Rural residents experience more days of disability and more chronic illness than their urban counterparts. Rural living produces drug abuse, domestic violence, depression and teenage pregnancy just as frequently as does urban living. In addition, rural Texans have less education, lower incomes, and shorter life expectancies than urban Texans. Rounding out this gloomy picture are higher incidences of substandard housing, poor communication and transportation systems, and inadequate sewage and water systems in rural areas.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS
MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Mary Walker

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

- ☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☒ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

RC 013753

The population of rural* Texas has increased 27% from 1970 to 1980;¹ metropolitan area population has grown 30%.² Texas is now the third most populous state in the union, following California and New York. Twenty percent of the population of Texas is nonmetropolitan, giving Texas a larger rural population than the combined total populations of Alaska, Delaware, Nevada, Vermont, and Wyoming. Texas has 254 counties; 200 of these counties are nonmetropolitan.** Twenty percent of the population of this state lives on eighty-one percent of the land.³

Poverty

Data from 1980 suggest an overall poverty rate of 14% for Texas. When broken down into metropolitan/nonmetropolitan, we find poverty rates of 18% for nonmetropolitan and 13% for metropolitan Texas.¹

The poverty rate for rural Mexican-Americans in Texas is 34%, as compared with 26% for urban Mexican-Americans.¹

57% of Texas families with Female Householders and children under 17 years old in the home are below the poverty level. In nonmetropolitan areas, 64% are below the poverty level.¹

In 1980, the poverty rate for rural Blacks in Texas was 37%, as compared with 25% for urban Blacks.¹

The median family income for those residing in nonmetropolitan areas of Texas is \$15,735, while metropolitan residents had a median income of \$20,204 (22% higher) in 1981.⁴

Per capita income for residents in nonmetropolitan areas was \$8,324 as compared with \$8,682 for metropolitan residents in 1980.⁵

Of the ten counties in Texas with the lowest per capita personal incomes in 1980, nine were nonmetropolitan counties. All had per capita personal incomes under \$5,289.⁵

* In this fact sheet, the definition of "rural" varies depending on the source of the information, but refers to a population group smaller than nonmetropolitan.

** "Nonmetropolitan is designated as all farms, open countryside, and places of less than 50,000 residents outside Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA)."¹

Of the ten counties in Texas with the highest per capita personal income in 1980, nine are nonmetropolitan counties. All ten had per capita personal incomes over \$13,114.⁵

According to the 1980 census, of the 15 counties in the United States with the lowest per capita income, 3 are in Texas: Starr, Maverick and Zavala.⁶

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, personal income rose 12% in 1980 to a per capita average of \$10,153 in urban areas in the U.S., as compared to a 8.7% rise, or \$7,556 per capita, in nonurban areas.⁷

Texas ranks 13th in the U.S. for the percentage of families below the poverty line. Texas Black families' median income was only about 60% of white families.⁸

Rural Texans account for 20% of the state's total Medicaid recipients.⁹

In 1980, Texas Medicaid-eligible persons made an average of 1700 doctor office visits/1000 persons. Texas Medicaid recipients had an average inpatient hospital stay of 9.4 days as compared to the U.S. Medicaid average of 8.7.¹⁰

The total number of physician (M.D. and D.O.) Texas Medicaid providers is 14,588. Of these physician providers, 2,374 or 16% practice in nonmetropolitan counties.¹¹

Elderly

Population data for 1980 showed that there are 1,368,000 people 65 years and older living in Texas. This is 9.6% of the total Texas population. The elderly population 65 years and over is comprised of 6% Hispanic, 10% white, and 9% black.¹

In the 1990's, it is projected that ages 45-64 will be the fastest growing group. By the year 2000 it is expected that there will be 1,926,000 persons, or 10% of the population, 65 years and older in Texas. In contrast the number of elderly people in the United States is projected to be 12% of the population.¹²

28% of the 139,164 Medicare enrollees in Texas live in nonmetropolitan areas. 32% of the amount reimbursed for hospital and/or medical insurance was paid to enrollees in nonmetropolitan areas.¹³

15% of Texas families under poverty level are families with heads of household over 65 years of age.¹

32% of the state's elderly population reside in nonmetropolitan counties, where the rate of poverty for this age group is 20%.¹

Only 7% of older Texans live in nursing or convalescent homes. The other 93% live independently in their own homes.⁹

29% of Medicaid recipients in Texas nursing homes are in facilities in nonmetropolitan counties.⁹

Children

Children make up the largest single age group within the poverty population. Statistics from 1980 suggest that children have a 39% incidence of poverty.¹

Children, age 0-14, make up 23% of the Texas population (3,305,926). 34% of this group is Spanish, 29% are black, and 23% are white. Projections predict that by 1984 only 17% of the population will be under 14 years old.¹

17% of the children in Texas live in nonmetropolitan areas.¹

The Texas maternal death rate was 1/10,000 births or 32 maternal deaths in 1981. The nonmetropolitan maternal death rate was 3 times the metropolitan rate (2.4 per 10,000 births for nonmetropolitan counties to .8 per 10,000 births in metropolitan counties).¹⁴

In 1981, there were 11.4 deaths of infants under 1 year per 1000 births in nonmetropolitan counties. There were 10.1 deaths in metropolitan areas. The national infant mortality rate for 1981 is 11.7 per 1000 births.¹⁴

Between 1970 and 1980, an average of 2 to 3% of all recorded births in Texas occurred outside hospitals. In 1980, 15% of births outside hospitals occurred in 9 counties; 7 of these 9 counties are nonmetropolitan.¹⁵

In 1980, of the 42,890 out-of-hospital births in nonmetropolitan counties in Texas, 133 were reported as attended by certified nurse midwives and 1,105 were attended by lay midwives.¹⁵

Of the 251,686 births in Texas hospitals during 1981, 40,960 or 16% were in nonmetropolitan hospitals.¹⁵

18% of all live births in Texas are born to teenage mothers. In nonmetropolitan counties the rate is 21%.¹⁴

Of the 131 Texas counties that had more than 100 live births to county residents in 1980, 106 were nonmetropolitan counties.¹⁶

All 106 nonmetropolitan counties having more than 100 live births to county residents are listed as high perinatal outcome risk areas. (The perinatal period is that period from 20 weeks gestation of the fetus through the first four weeks of life.)¹⁶

Seven out of every 100 babies born in Texas in 1981 had a low birth weight (5 1/2 pounds or less). 13 out of every 100 black babies had low birth weights.¹⁴

Nonmetropolitan counties in which there is a high incidence of low birth weight include Grimes with 15%, Jim Hogg with 12%, and Mitchell, Limestone, Crosby, Palo Pinto, and Refugio with 11%.¹⁶

52% or 104 of Texas nonmetropolitan counties have no public maternity or family planning service.¹⁶

Nonmetropolitan counties in which a high percentage of expectant women receive late prenatal care include Camp with 79% and Stephens with 76%.¹⁶

In September 1982, 70% of Women and Infant Care Project participants were Hispanic, 10% were white, and 18% were black.¹⁷

In 1981, 47,340 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect were received, an increase of 8% over 1980. 110 children were known to have died from child abuse in Texas in 1981.⁹

Education

Out of 1,100 school districts in Texas, 482 are considered rural school districts.¹⁸

16% of nonmetropolitan residents over 25 years of age have less than a nine year education, as opposed to 10% of those 25 and older in metropolitan Texas.¹

22% of Mexican-American residents in Texas 25 years and older had less than a nine year education, as compared to 12% of Blacks and 10% of Whites.¹

Environmental Factors

Of the 350 water systems noncompliant in 1981 with the maximum levels of contaminant established by the Safe Drinking Water Act, 112 serve communities with populations below 100; another 103 serve communities of between 100 and 500 persons. These noncompliant systems serve a population of over 360,000.¹⁹

Throughout Texas there are 30 community water systems which are noncompliant in levels of nitrates.²⁰

According to a Texas Department of Health spokesman, most water problems are in rural areas. Approximately 1100 notifications are sent out per month about noncompliance.²¹

Texas consumes 8.5% of all pesticides manufactured in the United States.²²

Forty-six of the approximately 2,000 pesticides registered for use in Texas have been classified as "restricted use" by the EPA, because of their toxicity to humans, animals, and/or the environment. "Restricted use" pesticides may comprise as much as 25 percent of the pesticides used in Texas.²³

Approximately 80 percent of pesticides used in agriculture in nonmetropolitan Texas are applied by aerial spraying, and as much as 30 to 80 percent of the pesticide is not deposited in the target area.²⁴

These agro-intensive areas in Texas use 69 percent of the pesticides: Lower Rio Grande Valley, 32%; Panhandle, 20%; Upper Coast and Coastal Bend, 17%.²⁵

In 1978, an estimated 5.8 million pounds of pesticides were applied in a four county area of South Texas. That figure translates to nearly 13 pounds of active ingredients for every man, woman and child living in the Rio Grande Valley.²⁴

Housing

39% of Texas' substandard housing is in the nonmetropolitan areas.¹

32% of the owner occupied housing units which were considered substandard and overcrowded (1.01 or more people per room) were located in nonmetropolitan counties. 25% of those substandard and overcrowded housing units in nonmetropolitan counties are in 8 of the southern-most nonmetropolitan counties (Starr, Maverick, Atascosa, Dimmitt, Jim Wells, Uvalde, Zavala, and Bee).¹

Transportation

8% or 85,055 rural households in Texas have no vehicle (automobile) available.¹

Public transportation in rural and small urban areas consists primarily of taxicabs and intercity bus services.²⁶ According to a Public Transportation spokesman, the delivery of efficient and cost effective public transportation is a problem in Texas.²⁷

In 1979, 819 human services transportation providers were identified in Texas. These providers operate 351 vehicles specially equipped to serve the elderly and handicapped.²⁶

As of October 1982, there were 6 counties in Texas without ambulance service. All of these counties are nonmetropolitan: Kennedy, King, Loving, Mills, Roberts, and San Jacinto.²⁸

Deaths on rural highways during 1981 account for over 56% of the Texas highway fatalities.²⁹

63% of fatal accidents occurring when driving under the influence of liquor occurred in rural areas in 1981.²⁹

26% of all fatal accidents in rural areas were due to DWI.²⁹

Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Substance use in rural areas was consistently less than in urban areas, according to a recent survey, except for tobacco use and codeine and barbiturate usage.³⁰

A national study showed that 45-60% of all fatal crashes involving teenage drivers are alcohol related. DWI accidents most often occurred in cities greater than 250,000 and in rural areas. The most typical ETOH admission to a Community Mental Health Center is Male Hispanic 22-24 years old.³¹

There is more abuse of prescription drugs in rural areas than urban areas.³⁰

Rural youths are more likely to deal dope for money than urban youths.³⁰

In a recent survey of over 1800 randomly selected Texans, 19% of the rural respondents reported at least one behavioral consequence of alcohol consumption (such as job, driving, or family problems).³²

Health Status

According to 1981 figures, the death rate in nonmetropolitan counties in Texas was 11.5 as compared to 7.8 in metropolitan counties (62% higher).¹⁴

The 3 leading causes of death in Texas are (1) heart disease, (2) cancer, and (3) cerebral vascular disease.^{14,34}

The following causes of death were more prominent in nonmetropolitan areas of the state than in metropolitan:¹⁴

--Tuberculosis death rate in nonmetropolitan counties was 33% higher than in metropolitan counties.

--Cerebrovascular disease death rate for nonmetropolitan counties was 82% higher than in metropolitan counties.

--Pneumonia and influenza death rates for non-metropolitan counties were 59% higher than in metropolitan counties.

--Motor vehicle deaths in nonmetropolitan counties accounted for 191% more deaths than in metropolitan counties.

14% of venereal diseases occurring throughout the state were reported from nonmetropolitan counties.³³

16% of tuberculosis cases were reported to occur in nonmetropolitan Texas.³⁴

26% of Hispanic persons with tuberculosis in the United States live in Texas--the second highest incidence in Hispanics in the country.³⁴

In 1981, 698 cases of rabies were confirmed in Texas. 55% were in non-metropolitan counties.³⁴

In the 1-14 year old group, accidents are the leading cause of death. In 15-34 year olds, motor vehicle accidents are the foremost cause of death, followed by suicide, homicide, and other accidents.³⁵

The Texas Department of Health goal is for all counties to have at least a 95% immunization level in all categories. Statewide, 138 school districts were unable to report 95% protection. According to the Texas Public School Immunization Report for the 1981-82 school year, the Department of Health shows that 12 out of 14 counties with immunization levels under 95% in at least one vaccine category were nonmetropolitan counties.³⁶

3% of public school students enrolled in Texas are not fully immunized. 13% of students in nonmetropolitan counties are not completely immunized.³⁶

The mean prevalence of dental caries in children in rural areas in District V (which includes Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona) is the lowest in the U.S.--3.2 DMFS (decayed, missing, filled surfaces)--as compared to the U.S. average of 5.7.³⁷

Mental Health

19% of Texas suicides in 1981 were in nonmetropolitan counties.¹⁴

17% of the admissions to state schools for the mentally retarded were from nonmetropolitan areas of the state in 1981.³⁸

39% of those being admitted to state mental health facilities for thirty-one days to no more than one year were from nonmetropolitan counties.³⁸

Only 8 out of 254 counties in Texas did not admit at least one resident to a state hospital in fiscal year 1981. All 8 were nonmetropolitan counties.³⁸

The Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation operates nine outpatient facilities for the mentally ill and thirteen state schools for the mentally retarded.³⁸

Of the 254 counties in Texas, only 35 provide some type of public community residential services for the mentally ill. Only 5 of the 30 community mental health centers furnish beds specifically for respite care for the mentally retarded. Most of the counties receiving these services are metropolitan.³⁸

Figures show that 25% of the 18-24 year olds admitted to state mental health facilities were from nonmetropolitan counties. This figure steadily increases with each age group until age 65 and older, when 56% of the admissions are found to be from nonmetropolitan Texas.³⁸

Nonmetropolitan counties accounted for 37% of those patients who remained hospitalized for one to five years, and for 42% of those who were hospitalized for over five years.³⁸

Crime

Data for 1981 reflects that nonmetropolitan counties reported:

- 12% of the murders
- 14% of the assaults
- 9% of the burglaries
- 6% of the rapes
- 2% of the robberies³⁹

Federal Health Programs

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has designated 226 areas in Texas as medically underserved. 162 (72%) of the 20 nonmetropolitan counties are medically underserved (see Map 1).⁴⁰

Of the 68 Texas counties designated as health manpower shortage areas for primary medical care, 61 are nonmetropolitan (see Map 2).⁴¹

High Migrant Impact areas represent 11% of the medically underserved areas.⁴⁰

In Texas, 18 nonmetropolitan counties have been designated as high migrant impact areas. These counties have a concentration of migrant, seasonal and/or retired migrant workers and their families (see Map 3).⁴⁰

Although the federal government sponsors 18 migrant health programs (6 in rural and 12 in urban areas), there are still 70 nonmetropolitan counties in Texas which have large numbers of migrant and other farmworkers but which are not served by these projects.⁴⁰

Five of the 18 nonmetropolitan counties designated as High Migrant Impact Areas are not served by federally funded Migrant Health Clinics.⁴⁰

During 1980, the 19 federally sponsored Rural Health Initiative Programs served over 90,000 individual clients, excluding migrant workers, through 39 clinic sites. These clinic sites served 46 nonmetropolitan counties.⁴⁰

There are 120 National Health Service Corps personnel (i.e. physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, physician assistants, registered nurses, social workers, dietitians, and/or pharmacists) employed in rural and migrant programs in Texas.⁴⁰

Health and Medical Facilities

There are presently 560 hospitals in Texas licensed by the Texas Department of Health--46.7% in nonmetropolitan areas.⁴²

Of the 62,341 hospital beds in Texas, 12,586 or 20% are located in nonmetropolitan counties.⁴²

There are 37 counties in Texas without a hospital. All of these are nonmetropolitan (see Map 4).^{42,43}

47% of Texas hospitals have 50 beds or less, and have an average occupancy of 57%. Two thirds of all hospitals in Texas have less than 100 beds.⁴²

In 1980 there were 2,449,317 admissions to hospitals in Texas. 465,591 or 19% of these admissions were to hospitals in nonmetropolitan counties.⁴²

The occupancy rate of Texas hospitals is 71%. It is 59% in nonmetropolitan hospitals and 74% in metropolitan hospitals.^{42,43}

On the average, patients' stay in Texas hospitals is 6.6 days. In non-metropolitan hospitals it is 5.9 days and in metropolitan hospitals it is 6.8 days.⁴²

43% of the state's 1025 nursing homes are located in nonmetropolitan areas.⁴⁴

There are 32 counties in Texas without a nursing home. All of these counties are nonmetropolitan (see map 4).⁴⁴

Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation has 69 Infant Stimulation Programs to provide treatment for slowly developing children; 7 are in nonmetropolitan counties.⁴⁵

Of 11 state certified Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) in Texas, only one is located in a nonmetropolitan county.⁴⁶

In 1980, 1,147,878 surgical operations were performed in Texas hospitals. 132,135 (11.5%) of these operations were performed in nonmetropolitan hospitals.⁴²

Outpatient emergency room visits during 1980 totalled 3,490,692 in Texas hospitals. 620,747 (18%) occurred in nonmetropolitan hospitals.⁴²

Health Manpower

Physicians

As of 1982 there are an estimated 541 people for every 1 physician in Texas. For metropolitan Texas there is 1 doctor for every 473 people while in nonmetropolitan Texas there is 1 doctor for every 1,301 people.⁴⁷

Twelve counties in Texas do not have physicians; population in these counties varies from 91 in Loving County to 4000 in Hartley County.⁴⁷

Twenty-two nonmetropolitan counties have no primary care physician.⁴⁷

Data for August 1982 reflects that there are 26,304 physicians providing direct patient care in Texas. Of this total 10,489 or 40% are classified as primary care physicians (includes specialties of general practice, family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics/gynecology).⁴⁷

13% of the primary care physicians are located in counties of 49,999 or less. 57%, or 5,970, of the primary care physicians are located in the metropolitan areas of San Antonio, Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston.⁴⁷

95% of Texas specialists practice in counties of 50,000 or more as compared with 5% in counties of 49,999 or less.⁴⁷

Of the 100 doctors completing the three year Family Practice Residency program in Texas in 1980-81, 51% located in Texas in towns of 49,999 or less, and 49% located in areas of 50,000 or more.⁴⁸

The nonmetropolitan counties in Texas with the largest concentrations of homebased farmworkers have the following numbers of physicians and hospitals:⁴⁹

<u>County</u>	<u>Physicians</u>	<u>Physician to population ratio</u>	<u>Hospitals</u>
Deaf Smith	11	1:1924	1
Dimmit	5	1:2273	1
Hale	43	1:874	3
La Salle	1	1:5514	0
Starr	10	1:2727	1
Willacy	6	1:2916	1

There are 181 nonmetropolitan counties which have no psychiatrists. Only 4% or 53 psychiatrists serve the nonmetropolitan population (1 for every 54,600 persons).^{47,50}

8% of the 138 counties in the United States without a physician are in Texas.⁵¹

Nurses

12% of the 54,111 active registered nurses are providing care in nonmetropolitan areas of Texas.⁵²

In 1981, there were 7 nonmetropolitan counties without active registered nurses (see map 5).⁵²

There are an estimated 263 people for every 1 registered nurse in Texas. In nonmetropolitan areas there is 1 registered nurse for every 503 persons. In contrast, the metropolitan ratio is one nurse for every 236 persons.⁵²

59%, or 31,780, of the active registered nurses are located in the metropolitan areas of San Antonio, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Houston.⁵²

Of the 42,276 licensed vocational nurses in Texas, 31% are practicing full time in nonmetropolitan areas. Many of these nurses are found in nursing homes rather than in hospitals, clinics or doctors' offices.⁵³

Advanced Nurse Practitioners

Of the 123 advanced nurse practitioners licensed by the Board of Nurse Examiners, 11 practice in nonmetropolitan counties (see Map 6).⁵⁴

Special practice areas of licensed advanced nurse practitioners in Texas include 46% family nurse practitioners, 21% pediatric nurse practitioners, 8% school nurse practitioners, 7% women's health care nurse practitioners, and 18% consisting of gerontological, psychiatric, obstetric and medical/surgical.⁵⁴

68% of the licensed advanced nurse practitioners practice in the metropolitan areas of Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio.⁵⁴

Nurse Midwives

There are 63 certified nurse midwives practicing nurse midwifery at the following locations in Texas: Air Force bases, Amarillo, Austin, Blanco, Brownsville, Crystal City, El Paso, Harlingen, Hidalgo County, Houston, Lubbock, Nacogdoches, Raymondville, San Antonio.⁵⁵

Of the 63 nurse midwives practicing in Texas, only 7 practice in nonmetropolitan counties.⁵⁵

Dentists

13% or 911 dentists serve the 200 nonmetropolitan counties of Texas.⁵⁶

There is one dentist per 3,179 persons in the nonmetropolitan counties, as compared to one per 1,870 persons in metropolitan counties.⁵⁶

15% or 30 of the nonmetropolitan counties in Texas have a ratio of 5,000 or more persons per dentist.⁵⁶

There are 29 nonmetropolitan Texas counties, with a total population of 70,800, without dentists (see Map 7).⁵⁶

Health manpower shortage areas for dental manpower were noted in 34 Texas counties; 31 are nonmetropolitan counties.⁴¹

Pharmacists

According to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, there are 3859 licensed pharmacies operating in Texas; 10,673 pharmacists are currently licensed and residing in the state.⁵⁷

There are presently 14 counties throughout Texas that do not have an active pharmacist (see map 5).⁵⁷

Other Health Manpower

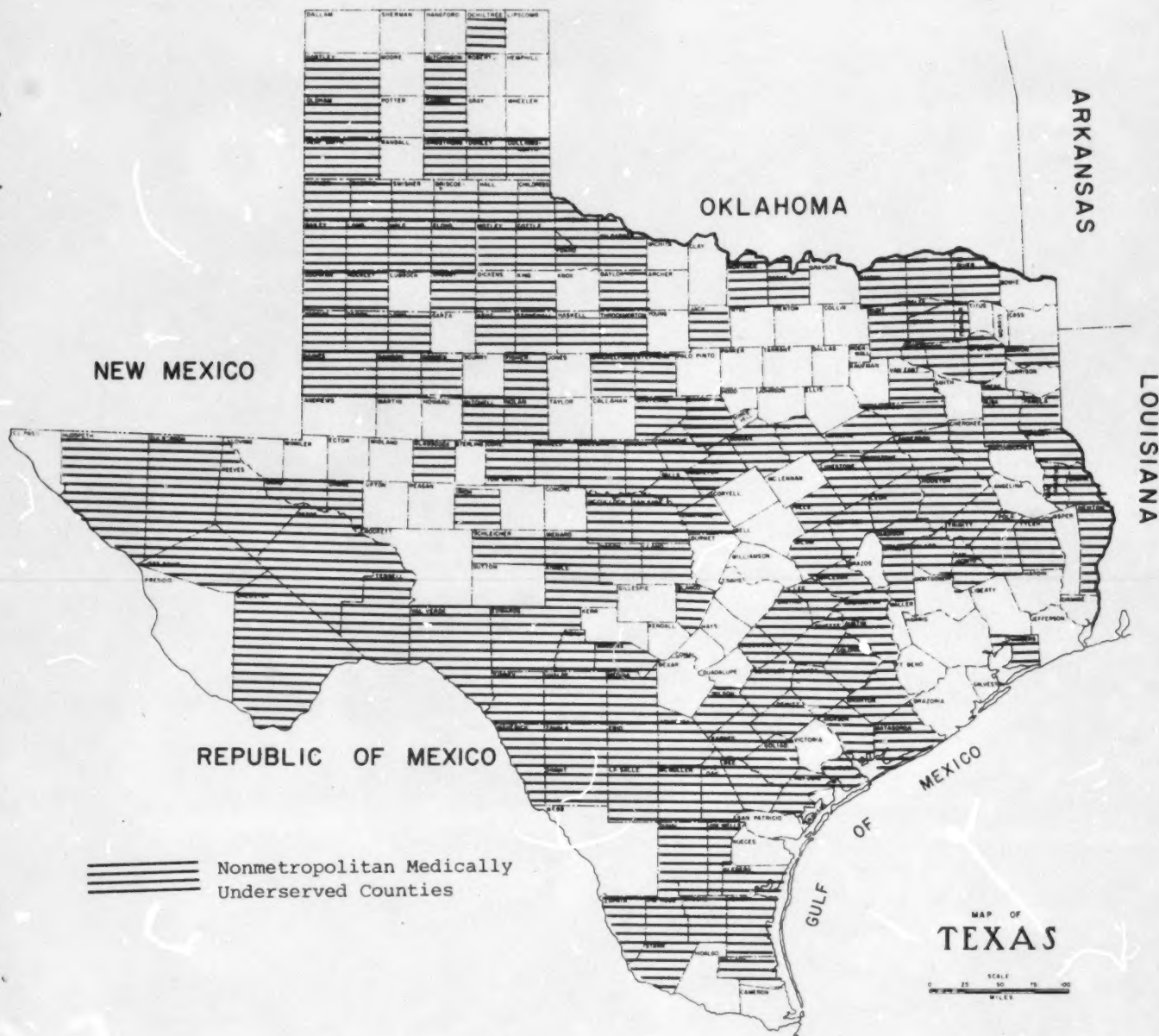
As of November of 1982, there were 312 physician assistants registered in Texas. Of these physician assistants 59 (19%) were practicing in nonmetropolitan areas (see Map 6).⁵⁸

Of the 1421 physical therapists licensed in Texas, 91% are practicing in metropolitan areas.⁵⁹

24% of the 925 chiropractors are providing care in nonmetropolitan areas of Texas.⁵⁹

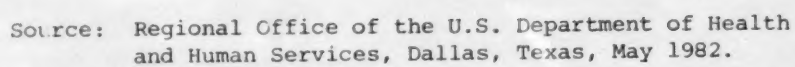
15.5% of the registered Advanced Life Support personnel in Texas serve 20% of the population in 81% of the state of Texas.⁶⁰

Map 1
Nonmetropolitan Medically Underserved
Counties in Texas



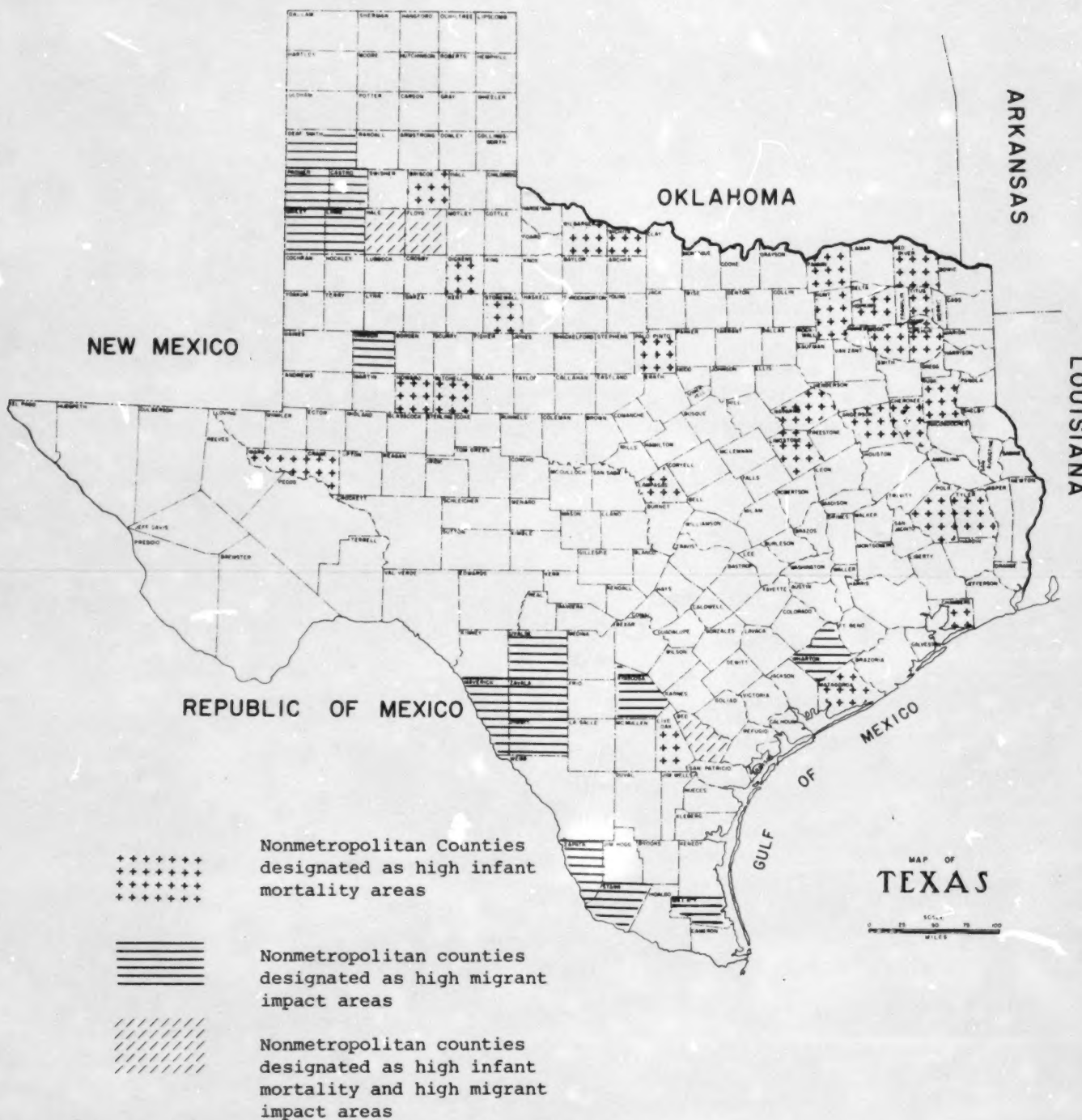
Source: Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Dallas, Texas, June 1981; and Federal Register, November 12, 1982.

Nonmetropolitan Counties in Texas
Designated as Health Manpower Shortage Areas
for Primary Medical Manpower



Map 3

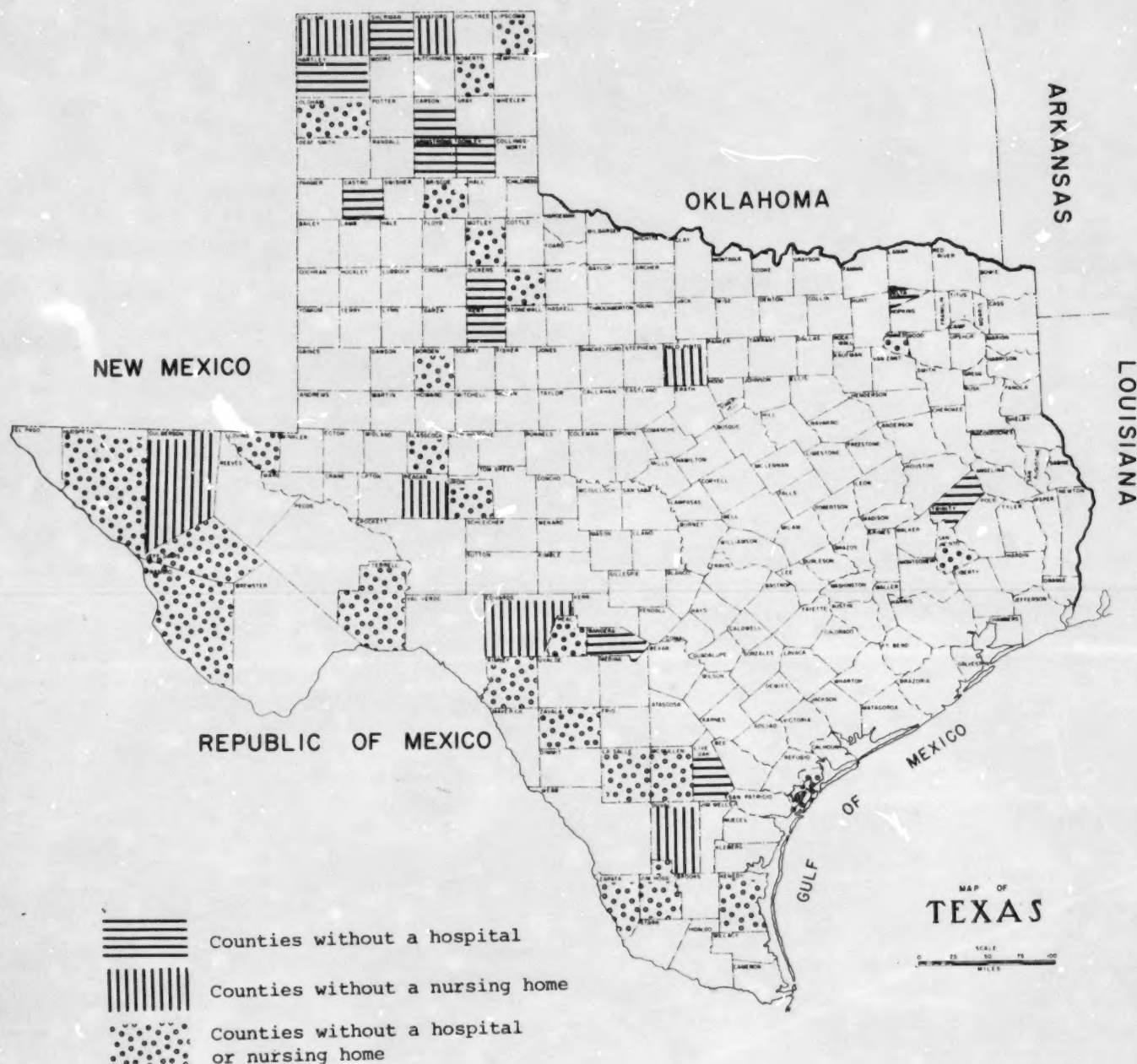
Nonmetropolitan Counties in Texas Designated as High Infant Mortality Areas and/or High Migrant Impact Areas



Source: Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Dallas, Texas, June 1980.

Map 4

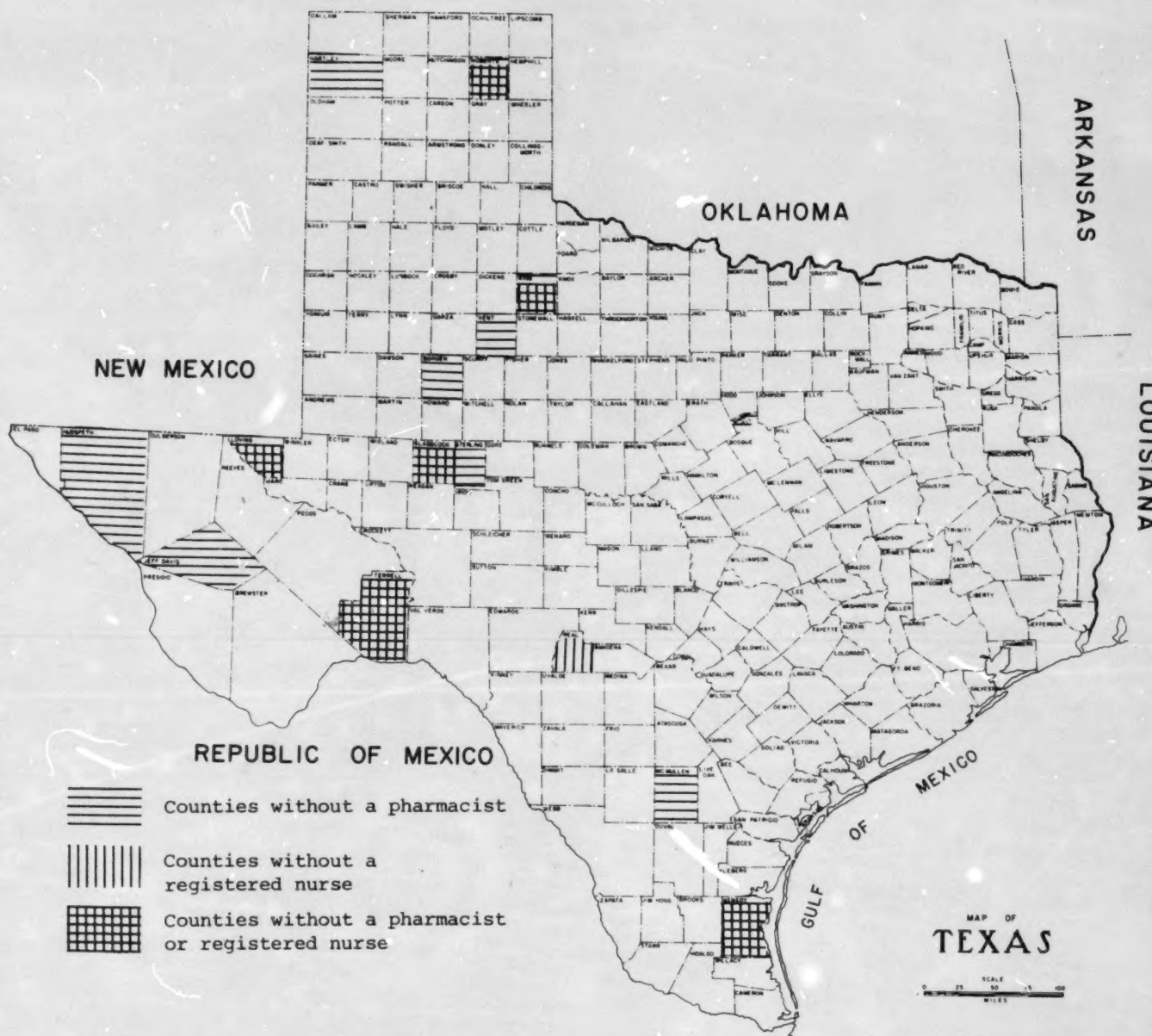
Nonmetropolitan Counties in Texas
Without Hospitals and/or Nursing Homes



Source: Texas Hospital Association, 1982; and
Texas Department of Health, January 1982.

Map 5

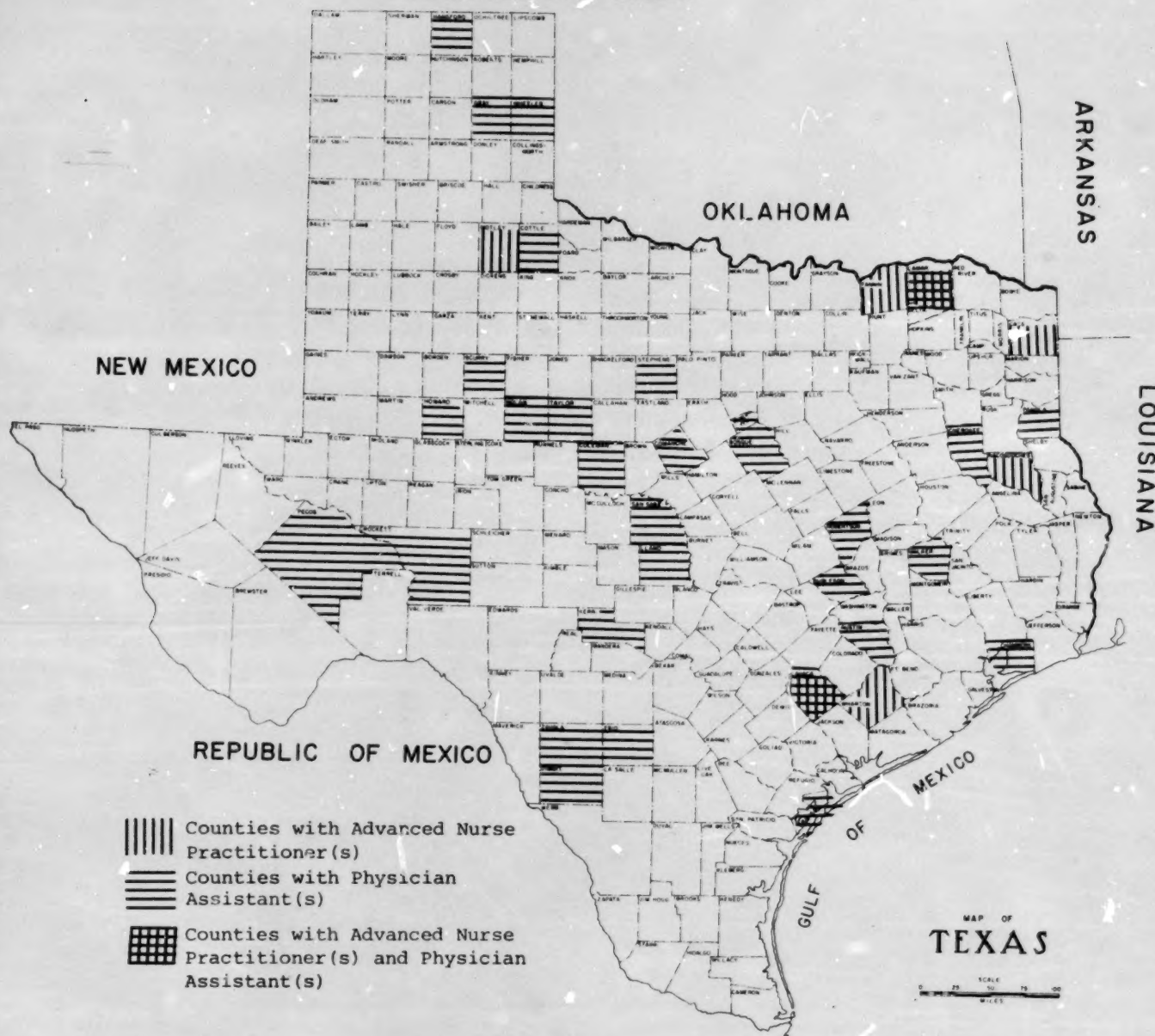
Nonmetropolitan Counties in Texas Without A
Pharmacist and/or Registered Nurse



Source: Texas Board of Pharmacy, Austin, Texas, 1982; and Texas Department of Health, Bureau of State Planning and Resource Development, 1982.

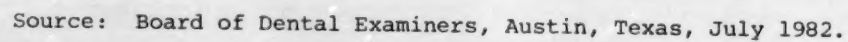
Map 6

Nonmetropolitan Counties in Texas
With Advanced Nurse Practitioners
and Physicians Assistants



Source: Texas Board of Nurse Examiners, November 1982; and Texas Medical Board of Examiners, November 1982.

Nonmetropolitan Counties in Texas Without a Dentist



References

- ¹ U.S. 1980 Census Data, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 1982.
- ² Census 1980: Population Growth in Texas and the United States, Texas State Data Center, Office of the Governor, Austin, Texas, 1982.
- ³ Wright, Rita. Bureau of Business Research, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1982.
- ⁴ Gerald Terry, "Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Estimated Median Family Income for 1980 and 1981," Economics and Market Division, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Dallas, Texas, 1982.
- ⁵ "Revised County and Metropolitan Area Personal Income," Survey of Current Business, Vol. 62, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., April 1982.
- ⁶ Dickinson Press, Dickinson, North Dakota, November 5, 1982.
- ⁷ Austin American-Statesman, Austin, Texas, May 23, 1982.
- ⁸ TDCA Bulletin, Vol. 9, no. 4, May-June 1982, p. 3, Texas Department of Community Affairs, Austin, Texas.
- ⁹ Annual Report 1981, Texas Department of Human Resources, Austin, Texas, 1981.
- ¹⁰ 1980 National Medical Care Utilization and Expenditure Survey, Health Care Financing Administration, Washington, D.C., 1980.
- ¹¹ Data provided by Texas Department of Human Resources, October 1982.
- ¹² Thomas R. Plaut, "A Supply-Side Model of the Texas Economy, Detailed Forecasts to the year 2000," Texas Business Review, March-April, 1982.
- ¹³ "Enrollment and Reimbursement for Hospital and Medical Insurance," Health Care Finance Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C., July 1980.
- ¹⁴ Texas Vital Statistics 1981, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, 1982.

¹⁵Migration for Birth 1980, Bureau of Health Planning and Resource Development, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, 1981.

¹⁶Maternal and Child Health Services in Texas-1981, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, 1981.

¹⁷Catherine Litteer, Letter, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, October 1982.

¹⁸Telephone conversation, Texas Education Agency, Austin, Texas, 1980.

¹⁹Tony Bennett, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, November 18, 1982.

²⁰"Chemical Analysis Violation Summary", Division of Water Hygiene, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, June 1982.

²¹Telephone conversation, Steve Walden, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, October 1982.

²²1977 Farm Products Expenditures, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

²³Elliot, W. Pesticide Usage Survey 1977, Texas Pesticide Hazard Assessment Project, San Benito, Texas, 1977.

²⁴Elliot, W. Analytical and Symptomological Evaluation of Human Exposure to Pesticide Drift in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas Study Proposal, Texas Pesticide Hazard Assessment Project, San Benito, Texas, 1981.

²⁵Texas County Statistics, Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, Austin, Texas, 1979.

²⁶Plans for Public Transportation in Texas, Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Austin, Texas, 1980.

²⁷Don Dial, Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Austin, Texas, October 1982.

²⁸Ambulance Services by County, Texas Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services Division, Austin, Texas, October 1982.

²⁹Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents, Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, Texas, 1981.

³⁰Texas Survey on Drug Abuse, Texas Department of Community Affairs, Austin, Texas, 1980.

³¹Texas State Plan for the Prevention, Treatment and Control of Alcohol Addiction and Abuse, Texas Commission on Alcoholism, Austin, Texas, 1981.

³²"Statewide Household Prevalence Survey, Preliminary Report", Texas Christian University, Center for Organizational Research, Fort Worth, Texas, December 1982.

³³Texas Morbidity This Week, Annual Summary of Morbidity Reports for 1981, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, 1982.

³⁴Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, May 14, 1982, Vol. 31, #18, Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, 1982.

³⁵The Best Little Data Book in Texas, Central Texas Health Services Agency, Austin, Texas, 1982.

³⁶Texas Public School Immunization Report 1981-82, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, 1982.

³⁷The Prevalence of Dental Caries in U.S. Children, 1979-80, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, Washington, D.C., 1980.

³⁸Data Book, Volumes A and B, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Austin, Texas, 1981.

³⁹Crime in Texas, Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, Texas, 1981.

⁴⁰The Impact of Selected Federal Health Programs in Texas, Texas Rural Health Field Services Program, University of Texas, Austin, TX, 1982; and Federal Register, November 12, 1982.

⁴¹Health Manpower Shortage Area Data Base, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C., May 18, 1982.

⁴²Hospital Statistics, American Hospital Association, Chicago, Illinois, 1981.

⁴³Roy Ayers, Texas Hospital Association, Interview, Austin, Texas, September 1982.

⁴⁴Directory of Texas Long Term Care Facilities, Texas Department of Health, Quality Standards Division, Austin, Texas, January 1, 1982.

⁴⁵Infant Stimulation Programs, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Austin, Texas, July 1981.

⁴⁶Texas HMO Status Report, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, July 1, 1982.

⁴⁷Distribution of Texas Physicians by Specialty Within County, Department of Medical Systems and Practice Management, Texas Medical Association and Texas Medical Foundation, September 1982.

⁴⁸Dean Herbst, Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, Austin, Texas, October 1982.

⁴⁹Texas State Plan for Farmworkers, Farmworker Policy Impact Project, Texas Rural Aid, Inc., Austin, Texas, February 1982.

⁵⁰"Physicians Licensed in Texas," Manpower Special Reports, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, July 1982.

⁵¹Getz, V. "Counties without a Physician," Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., January 1982.

⁵²Registered Nurse Statistics Report for 1981, Data Collection and Analysis Division, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, 1982.

⁵³Licensed Vocational Nurse Statistical Report, Data Collection and Analysis Division, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, 1982.

⁵⁴Texas Board of Nurse Examiners, Austin, Texas, November 1982.

⁵⁵Texas Certified Nurse Midwives, Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives, Houston, Texas, July 1982.

⁵⁶Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, Austin, Texas, October 29, 1982.

57 Texas State Board of Pharmacy, Austin, Texas, September 1982.

58 Texas Medical Board of Examiners, Austin, Texas, November 1982.

59 "Health Professionals in Texas by Activity Status for 1981," Texas Health Manpower Reports, Data Collection and Dissemination, Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas, 1981.

60 Texas Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services Division, Austin, Texas, September 30, 1982.

"Rural Health Care in Texas: The Facts--1982" was researched by Beth Monninger, Lonna Milburn and Helen Austin, and compiled by Yvonne Knudson and Dr. Mary Walker, December 1982.

Dr. Mary Walker, R.N., Ph.D., Program Director
Texas Rural Health Field Services Program
The University of Texas School of Nursing
1700 Red River
Austin, Texas 78701-1499
512/471-7311

Program support provided by the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, the Moody Foundation, the Meadows Foundation and the Trull Foundation.